REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 45-92 are pending. In the present Office Action, claims 1-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gainer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,321,219 ("Gainer"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, given the cancellation of claims 45-92, Applicant submits that the rejection is moot.

Applicant respectfully submits that each of new claims 45-92 recites a combination of features not taught or suggested in the cited art. For example, each of claims 45, 61, and 77 recite a combination of features including: "if the first pathname is a DSL: extracting at least one tag from the first pathname; determining at least one value corresponding to the tag; and substituting the first value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing a first target pathname".

Gainer teaches dynamic symbolic links for computer file systems. Particularly, Gainer teaches "The present invention provides facilities in the file system of an operating system or other program for creating and maintaining dynamic links among file-system objects. These links differ from conventional static links in that they come into being only when needed to access an object, and they cease to exist whenever a user's access ceases. At the same time, however, dynamic links are more than mere ad hoc relationships that need to be defined anew for every file access. Although the links themselves go away between successive accesses, a persistent rule or definition recreates the links automatically for every access." (Gainer, col. 2, lines 20-30). More particularly, Gainer teaches "A file-system component called a dynamic link driver detects operations occurring at points in the file-system name space where rules have been defined, creates symbolic links among objects as specified by the rules. ... A rules component or query processor, either within the file-system link driver or located separately, stores and accesses the data required to carry out the rules. The rules defining a given set of dynamic symbolic links can be satisfied directly by the link driver; that is, the link driver can directly execute and satisfy the rule. Alternatively, the rule can be forwarded to any supported query processor." (Gainer, col. 2, lines 38-42 and 53-59). In

one particular implementation, Gainer's rules are stored in a database management system (Gainer, col. 7, lines 17-43). For example, the file indexer in WindowsNT may be used (Gainer, col. 7, lines 43-54).

Thus, Gainer teaches a system in which symbolic links are dynamically created in response to a file access, using either a dynamic link driver or database system, or both, to apply rules to create the links. None of these teachings teach or suggest "if the first pathname is a DSL: extracting at least one tag from the first pathname; determining at least one value corresponding to the tag; and substituting the first value into the first pathname in place of the tag, producing a first target pathname" as recited in claims 45, 61, and 77. For at least the above stated reasons, Applicant submits that claims 45, 61, and 77 are patentable over the cited art. Claims 46-60 (dependent from claim 45), claims 62-76, (dependent from claim 61), and claims 78-92 (dependent from claim 77), are also patentable for at least the above stated reasons as well. Each of claims 46-60, 62-76, and 78-92 recite additional combinations of features not taught or suggested in the cited art.
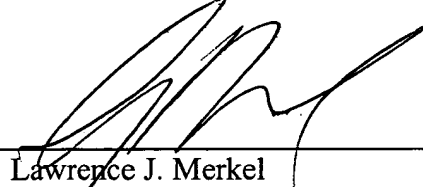
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5760-22300/LJM.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☐ Petition for Extension of Time

☐ Request for Approval of Drawing Changes

☐ Notice of Change of Address

☒ Please debit the above-identified deposit account in the amount of $72 for fees ($72 for 4 excess claims over 20).

☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,

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AGENT FOR APPLICANT(S)

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Date: 4/16/04